

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as indicated below. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A storage subsystem, comprising:

at least one storage device; and

a storage virtualization controller, wherein the storage virtualization controller is communicatively coupled to the at least one storage device, and wherein the storage virtualization controller is operable to:

determine a metadata format usable to access data stored on the at least one storage device under a first operating system, wherein the metadata format is determined in response to a request by a host computer system to access the data, and wherein the metadata format is determined based on the host computer system running the first operating system;

generate operating system metadata in accordance with the determined metadata format for the at least one storage device, wherein the operating system metadata emulates a storage volume hosted under ~~[[a]]~~ the first operating system; and

send the operating system metadata to ~~[[a]]~~ the host computer system, ~~wherein the host computer system runs the first operating system,~~ and wherein the operating system metadata enables the host computer system to recognize the storage device as the storage volume hosted under the first operating system.

2. (Original) The storage subsystem of claim 1,

wherein the operating system metadata enables a block storage I/O stack in the first operating system on the host computer system to recognize the storage device as a partition.
3. (Original) The storage subsystem of claim 1,

wherein the operating system metadata enables a block storage I/O stack in the first operating system on the host computer system to recognize the storage device as a host-virtual object.
4. (Original) The storage subsystem of claim 1,

wherein the operating system metadata enables a driver on the host computer system to recognize the storage device as an enclosed volume, wherein the driver is layered above a block storage I/O stack in the first operating system.
5. (Original) The storage subsystem of claim 1,

wherein the storage virtualization controller is operable to configure the operating system metadata in response to a requirement of the first operating system.
6. (Original) The storage subsystem of claim 1,

wherein a management environment is configured to supply operating system types and operating system metadata configuration requirements to the storage virtualization controller, wherein the operating system types comprise the first operating system.

7. (Original) The storage subsystem of claim 1,

wherein in generating the operating system metadata for the storage device, the storage virtualization controller is operable to add a storage property to identify an offset and a length of the storage volume.
8. (Original) The storage subsystem of claim 1,

wherein an operation is provided to configure operating system types and operating system metadata configuration requirements for generating the operating system metadata, wherein the operating system types comprise the first operating system.
9. (Original) The storage subsystem of claim 1,

wherein the storage virtualization controller is operable to receive user input to select one of a plurality of operating system types for the operating system metadata, wherein the operating system types comprise the first operating system.
10. (Original) The storage subsystem of claim 1,

wherein the storage virtualization controller is operable to send an operating system metadata configuration instruction to the storage device through a vendor-unique I/O request to the storage device.
11. (Original) The storage subsystem of claim 1,

wherein the operating system metadata emulates a storage volume hosted under a first operating system and one or more additional operating systems; and

wherein the operating system metadata enables a layered driver on the host computer system to recognize the storage device.

12. (Original) The storage subsystem of claim 1,

using a layered driver on the host computer system to provide access to a storage volume mapped within a Logical Unit, wherein the Logical Unit is provided by an external device or an external virtualization layer.

13. (Original) The storage subsystem of claim 1,

wherein a management environment is configured to supply a preferred name of the storage device to software on the host computer system.

14. (Currently Amended) A method comprising:

determining a metadata format usable to access data stored on a storage device under a first operating system, wherein the metadata format is determined in response to a request by a host computer system to access the data, and wherein the metadata format is determined based on the host computer system running the first operating system;

generating operating system metadata in accordance with the determined metadata format for ~~[[a]]~~ the storage device, wherein the operating system metadata emulates a storage volume hosted under ~~[[a]]~~ the first operating system; and

sending the operating system metadata to ~~[[a]]~~ the host computer system, ~~wherein the host computer system runs the first operating system, and~~ wherein the operating system metadata enables the host computer system to recognize the storage device as the storage volume hosted under the first operating

system.

15. (Original) The method of claim 14,

wherein the operating system metadata enables a block storage I/O stack in the first operating system on the host computer system to recognize the storage device as a partition.

16. (Original) The method of claim 14,

wherein the operating system metadata enables a block storage I/O stack in the first operating system on the host computer system to recognize the storage device as a host-virtual object.

17. (Original) The method of claim 14,

wherein the operating system metadata enables a driver on the host computer system to recognize the storage device as an enclosed volume, wherein the driver is layered above a block storage I/O stack in the first operating system.

18. (Original) The method of claim 14, further comprising:

configuring the generating the operating system metadata in response to a requirement of the first operating system.

19. (Original) The method of claim 14,

wherein the generating the operating system metadata for the storage device is performed by a storage virtualizer; and

wherein a management environment is configured to supply operating system types and operating system metadata configuration requirements to the storage virtualizer, wherein the operating system types comprise the first operating system.

20. (Original) The method of claim 14,

wherein the generating the operating system metadata for the storage device comprises adding a storage property to identify an offset and a length of the storage volume.

21. (Original) The method of claim 14,

wherein an operation is provided to configure operating system types and operating system metadata configuration requirements for the generating the operating system metadata, wherein the operating system types comprise the first operating system.

22. (Original) The method of claim 14, further comprising:

receiving user input to select one of a plurality of operating system types for the operating system metadata, wherein the operating system types comprise the first operating system.

23. (Original) The method of claim 14, further comprising:

sending an operating system metadata configuration instruction to the storage device through a vendor-unique I/O request to the storage device.

24. (Original) The method of claim 14,

wherein the operating system metadata emulates a storage volume hosted under a first operating system and one or more additional operating systems; and

wherein the operating system metadata enables a layered driver on the host computer system to recognize the storage device.

25. (Original) The method of claim 14,

using a layered driver on the host computer system to provide access to a storage volume mapped within a Logical Unit, wherein the Logical Unit is provided by an external device or an external virtualization layer.

26. (Original) The method of claim 14,

wherein a management environment is configured to supply a preferred name of the storage device to software on the host computer system.

27. (Currently Amended) A ~~earlier~~ computer-readable storage medium comprising program instructions, wherein the program instructions are computer-executable to implement:

determining a metadata format usable to access data stored on a storage device under a first operating system, wherein the metadata format is determined in response to a request by a host computer system to access the data, and wherein the metadata format is determined based on the host computer system running the first operating system;

generating operating system metadata in accordance with the determined metadata format for [[a]] the storage device, wherein the operating system metadata emulates a storage volume hosted under [[a]] the first operating system; and

sending the operating system metadata to ~~[[a]] the host computer system, wherein the host computer system runs the first operating system, and~~ wherein the operating system metadata enables the host computer system to recognize the storage device as the storage volume hosted under the first operating system.

28. (Currently Amended) A system comprising:

means for determining a metadata format usable to access data stored on a storage device under a first operating system, wherein the metadata format is determined in response to a request by a host computer system to access the data, and wherein the metadata format is determined based on the host computer system running the first operating system;

means for generating operating system metadata in accordance with the determined metadata format for ~~[[a]] the~~ storage device, wherein the operating system metadata emulates a storage volume hosted under ~~[[a]] the~~ first operating system; and

means for sending the operating system metadata to ~~[[a]] the~~ host computer system, ~~wherein the host computer system runs the first operating system, and~~ wherein the operating system metadata enables the host computer system to recognize the storage device as the storage volume hosted under the first operating system.